Listing of the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A network verification tool (NVT) apparatus, comprising:

a network under test;

at least one probe network device coupled to the network under test, the at least one probe network device configured to host at least one task type; and

an NVT server coupled to the at least one probe network device, wherein

the NVT server is configured to translate parameters entered by a user to instructions executable by the at least one probe network device,

the NVT server is configured to transmit the instructions to the at least one probe network device hosting the task type, and

the at least one probe network device is configured to execute a process corresponding to the at least one task type in response to the instructions.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

an NVT client coupled to the NVT server, wherein

the NVT client is configured to provide a template to the user for entering the parameters, and

the NVT client is configured to transmit the parameters to the NVT server.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the NVT server is coupled through an Ethernet control network and a communication server to the at least one probe network device.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one task type includes at least one of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task type.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the traffic generator is compatible with at least one combination of a protocol, a media and an encapsulation, wherein

the protocol is selected from the group consisting of IP, IPX, CLNS, Decnet, XNS, AppleTalk, VINES, TCP, UDP, ICMP, and IGMP;

the media is selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, FDDI, Serial and Token Ring; and

the encapsulation is selected from the group consisting of ARPA, SNAP, SAP, Novell-Ether and HDLC.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the session emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a multi-protocol session emulator, a LLC2 single protocol session emulator, and a SDLC single protocol session emulator.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the large network emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a BGP large network emulator, a EIGRP large network emulator, an IP RIP large network emulator, an IPX RIP large network emulator and an OSPF large network emulator.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the device query task type is selected from the group consisting of a query CPU, a query memory, a query IP route, a query BGP task, a query EIGRP task, a query OSPF task, a query multi-protocol session task, a query LLC2 single-protocol session task, a query SDLC single-protocol session task, and a query traffic analyzer task.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of testing a network, comprising:

providing a test network comprising a probe network device hosting a task type and further comprising a network under test coupled to the probe network device;

providing a NVT server coupled to the probe network device;

entering the parameters for a task of the task type into a template;

translating the parameters into instructions executable by the probe network device, wherein

said translating is performed using the NVT server;

transferring the instructions to the probe network device;

executing the task type associated with the instructions on the probe network device in order to form a process;

monitoring the test network in order to determine performance, wherein

said monitoring is performed using the process.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein entering the parameters for a task of the task type includes

coupling an NVT client to the NVT server,

transmitting a collection of templates corresponding to the task type to the NVT client,

entering parameters into at least one of the collection of templates to form the task, and

transmitting the task to the NVT server.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the task type includes at least one of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task type.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the traffic generator is compatible with at least one combination of a protocol, a media and an encapsulation, wherein

the protocol is selected from the group consisting of IP, IPX, CLNS, Decnet, XNS, AppleTalk, VINES, TCP, UDP, ICMP, and IGMP;

the media is selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, FDDI, Serial and Token Ring; and

the encapsulation is selected from the group consisting of ARPA, SNAP, SAP, Novell-Ether and HDLC.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the session emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a multi-protocol session emulator, a LLC2 single protocol session emulator, and a SDLC single protocol session emulator.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the large network emulator task type is selected from the group consisting of a BGP large network emulator, a EIGRP large network emulator, an IP RIP large network emulator, an IPX RIP large network emulator and an OSPF large network emulator.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the device query task type is selected from the group consisting of a query CPU, a query memory, a query IP route, a query BGP task, a query EIGRP task, a query OSPF task, a query multi-protocol session task, a query LLC2 single-protocol session task, a query SDLC single-protocol session task, and a query traffic analyzer task.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the NVT client and the NVT server are coupled through the Internet and the collection of templates and the task are transmitted using JAVA/HTML processes.

17. (Previously Presented) A network testing method performed on a test network having at least one network device coupled to an NVT server, the method comprising:

forming a task, the task being formed by entering task parameters into a task template;

translating the task parameters using the NVT server to form executable instructions that can be transmitted to a probe network device that hosts a task code, wherein

the task code executes the executable instructions.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the task is selected from a group of tasks consisting of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task.

19. (Previously Presented) A network verification test apparatus, comprising computer instructions implemented on an NVT server for

sending task templates to a user;

receiving tasks formed by the user entering parameters into the task templates;

translating the tasks to task code configured to be executed by one or more probe network devices; and

transmitting the task code to the one or more probe network devices.

20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the task templates correspond to task types, the task types chosen from a group consisting of a traffic generator, a traffic analyzer, a large network emulator, a session emulator, a device query or a script task.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein the NVT server is configured to transmit a collection of templates to the NVT client, wherein

the collection of templates comprises a corresponding template for each of the at least one task types, and further comprises the template.